

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 1890  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890

Action ID No. 199800930

December 3, 2004

PUBLIC NOTICE

The NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT), DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS, 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1548 has applied for a Department of the Army (DA) permit TO PLACE FILL MATERIAL IN WETLANDS TO REPLACE THE EXISTING DRAWBRIDGE (BRIDGE NO. 29) OVER GALLANTS CHANNEL WITH A HIGH-RISE OR MID-RISE BRIDGE AND IMPROVE EXISTING US 70 TO A MULTILANE FACILITY FROM THE EXISTING FOUR LANES ON RADIO ISLAND NEAR PIVER'S ISLAND ROAD TO OLGA ROAD (SR 1429) ON US 70, BEAUFORT, CARTERET COUNTY, North Carolina. This is TIP Project No. R-3307, Federal Project No. STPNHF-70(43), and State Project No. 8.1162501.

The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments on the proposed alternatives to replace the existing drawbridge (Bridge No. 29) over Gallants Channel with a new bridge and to improve US 70 to a multilane facility from Radio Island to Olga Road (SR 1429) on US 70, Beaufort, Carteret County submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on November 17, 2004 that will lead to the identification of the least environmentally damaging practical alternative (LEDPA).

Project Purpose and Schedule:

The purpose and need of the proposed project is to eliminate traffic delays occurring at the existing drawbridge over Gallants Channel (Bridge No. 29) and to increase the travel carrying capacity of the US 70 in the Beaufort Area by replacing the existing drawbridge with a high rise bridge and extending US 70 as a multilane facility from four lanes at Radio Island to north of Pinners Point Road (SR 1303). According to the EA, the 2004-2010 NCDOT Transportation Plan (TIP) indicates that right-of-way acquisition for the proposed project is scheduled to begin in fiscal year (FY) 2008 and construction in post year beyond 2010. Current total cost estimates range from \$53,155,000 to \$69,096,000.

Project Alternatives:

The EA describes the social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with the proposed alternatives for this project. According to the EA, the five alternatives under consideration propose to remove and replace the existing Gallants Channel Bridge with a four-lane bridge with a 4-foot median, construct a new location roadway from Radio Island to Olga

Road (SR 1429) on US 70 that includes four lanes with a divided 19-foot median with grassed shoulders and widening of West Beaufort Road (US 70) to three lanes with curb and gutter. All intersecting roads will remain at grade, except for Alternatives 1A and 1E, where a grade separation is proposed for Turner Street (SR 1174). These alternatives include proposed traffic signals at the intersections with Turner Street (SR 1174), West Beaufort Road (SR 1170), NC 101, and US 70 Live Oak Street. A brief description of each alternative under consideration is provided below:

1. Alternative 1A. Construct a four-lane divided roadway on new location from approximately 1000 feet west of Piver's Island Road (SR 1208) to Shell Landing Road (SR 1301) and widen US 70 from approximately Shell Landing Road (SR 1301) to Olga Road (SR 1429) on US 70. This alternative includes replacement of the existing Gallants Channel Bridge with a 4-lane high-rise bridge with 65 feet of vertical clearance over Gallants Channel that is located south of the Harbor of Refuge. This alternative crosses north of the Carteret County Home on NC 101 and does not cross the Carteret County School Expansion site.

2. Alternative 1E. Construct a four-lane divided roadway on new location from approximately 1000 feet west of Piver's Island Road (SR 1208) to Piner's Point Road (SR 1303) and widen US 70 from approximately Piner's Point Road (SR 1303) to Olga Road (SR 1429) on US 70. This alternative includes replacement of the existing Gallants Channel Bridge with a 4-lane high-rise bridge with 65 feet of vertical clearance over Gallants Channel that is located south of the Harbor of Refuge. This alternative crosses north of the Carteret County Home on NC 101 and crosses the Carteret County School Expansion site.

3. Alternative 2A. Construct a four-lane divided roadway on new location from approximately 1000 feet west of Piver's Island Road (SR 1208) to Shell Landing Road (SR 1301) and widen US 70 from approximately Shell Landing Road (SR 1301) to Olga Road (SR 1429) on US 70. This alternative includes replacement of the existing Gallants Channel Bridge with a 4-lane high-rise bridge with 45 or 65 feet of vertical clearance over Gallants Channel that is located north of the Harbor of Refuge and connects to West Beaufort Road (SR 1170). This alternative crosses south of the Carteret County Home on NC 101 and crosses the Carteret County School Expansion site.

4. Alternative 2D. Construct a four-lane divided roadway on new location from approximately 1000 feet west of Piver's Island Road (SR 1208) to Shell Landing Road (SR 1301) and widen US 70 from approximately Shell Landing Road (SR 1301) to Olga Road (SR 1429) on US 70. This alternative includes replacement of the existing Gallants Channel Bridge with a 4-lane high-rise bridge with 45 or 65 feet of vertical clearance over Gallants Channel that is located north of the Harbor of Refuge and connects to West Beaufort Road (SR 1170). This alternative crosses north of the Carteret County Home on NC 101 and does not cross the Carteret County School Expansion site.

5. Alternative 2E. Construct a four-lane divided roadway on new location from approximately 1000 feet west of Piver's Island Road (SR 1208) to Pinners Point Road (SR 1303) and widen US 70 from approximately Piner's Point Road (SR 1303) to Olga Road (SR 1429) on US 70. This alternative includes replacement of the existing Gallants Channel Bridge with a 4-lane high-rise bridge with 45 or 65 feet of vertical clearance over Gallants Channel that is located north of the Harbor of Refuge and connects to West Beaufort Road (SR 1170). This alternative crosses north of the Carteret County Home on NC 101 and crosses the Carteret County School Expansion site.

A map showing the location of the five proposed Alternatives 1A, 1E, 2A, 2D, and 2E for this project is included with this public notice.

According to the EA, wetland types potentially impacted by the proposed project include salt marsh (Cowardin Classification E2SS7P), wet pine flatwoods (Cowardin Classification PF04/1E), and disturbed Scrub Shrub wetland (PSS1/E). The project study area is located in the White Oak River Basin (HUC 03020106). The project will cross Gallants Channel, Town Creek, and Turner Creek. According to the EA, there are no stream impacts associated with this project. Wetland impacts for each alternative, based on Table 20 (page 60) in the EA, are provided below.

Table 1. Wetland Impacts for the proposed build alternatives.

Wetland Type	Alt 1A	Alt 1E	Alt 2A	Alt 2D	Alt 2E
Salt Marsh	0.49	0.49	1.96	1.96	1.96
Scrub Shrub (PSS1/E)	0.00	0.00	1.08	1.08	1.08
Wet Pine Flatwoods	10.05	5.31	9.84	6.66	2.36
Total Wetlands	10.54	5.80	12.88	9.70	5.40

Note: Proposed ROW widths for shoulder sections (new location) are 130-200 ft, curb and gutter sections are 95 ft, and the Turner Street Connector is 66 ft.

In order to more fully integrate Section 404 permit requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and to give careful consideration to our required public interest review and 404 (b)1 compliance determination, the Corps of Engineers is soliciting public comment on the merits of the proposal and on the proposed alternatives evaluated in the EA. At the close of this comment period, the District Engineer will evaluate and consider the scope of comments received as well as the expected adverse and beneficial impacts of the proposed road construction to select the least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative (LEDPA). The District Engineer is not authorizing construction of the road at this time. A final Department of the Army permit decision will not be made until such time that impacts to the aquatic environment have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable, a compensatory mitigation plan has been approved, and final design has been completed.

NCDOT is currently investigating mitigation opportunities in the vicinity of the project; however, a mitigation proposal is not ready for review at this time. The District Engineer will review and approve a final mitigation plan prior to the commencement of construction on the project.

Functional design plans, a copy of the corridor public hearing maps, and EA are available for review at the Wilmington Regulatory Field Office of the Wilmington District Corps of Engineers, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28402.

The applicant will make a determination that the proposed work is consistent with the North Carolina Coastal Zone Management Plan and will submit this determination to the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM) for their review and concurrence. This proposal shall be reviewed for the applicability of other actions by North Carolina agencies such as:

- a. The issuance of a Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act by the North Carolina Division of Environmental Management (NCDEM).
- b. The issuance of a permit to dredge and/or fill under North Carolina General Statute 113-229 by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM).
- c. The issuance of a permit under the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM) or their delegates.
- d. The issuance of an easement to fill or otherwise occupy State-owned submerged land under North Carolina General Statute 143-341(4), 146-6, 146-11, and 146-12 by the North Carolina Department of Administration (NCDA) and the North Carolina Council of State.
- e. The approval of an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan by the Land Quality Section, North Carolina Division of Land Resources (NCDLR), pursuant to the State Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 (NC G.S. 113 A-50-66).

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson –Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The District Engineer's initial determination is that the proposed project would not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the NMFS.

The requested Department of the Army (DA) permit will be denied if any required State or local authorization and/or certification is denied. No DA permit will be issued until a State coordinated viewpoint is received and reviewed by this agency. Recipients of this notice are encouraged to furnish comments on factors of concern represented by the above agencies directly to the respective agency, with a copy furnished to the Corps of Engineers.

This application is being considered pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Any person may request, in writing within the comment period specified in the notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this site is not registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Consultation of the National Register constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit.

The District Engineer, based on available information, is not aware that the proposed activity will affect species, or their critical habitat, designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts which the proposed activity may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors which become relevant in each particular case. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards and flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the placement of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria, a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

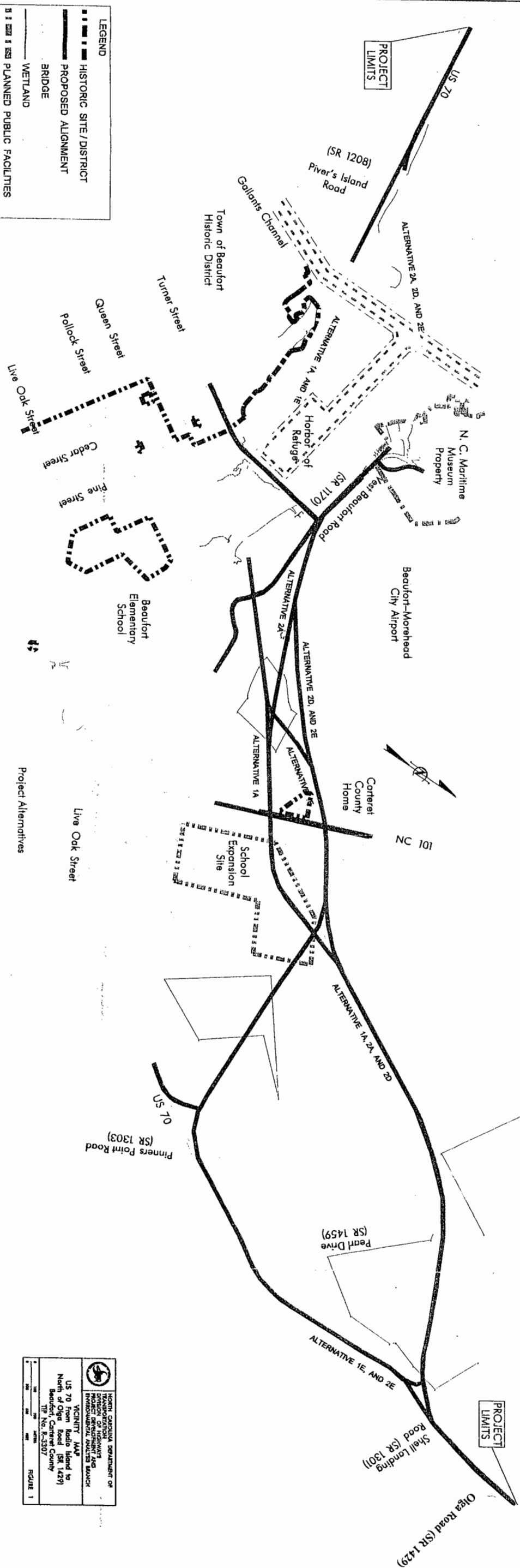
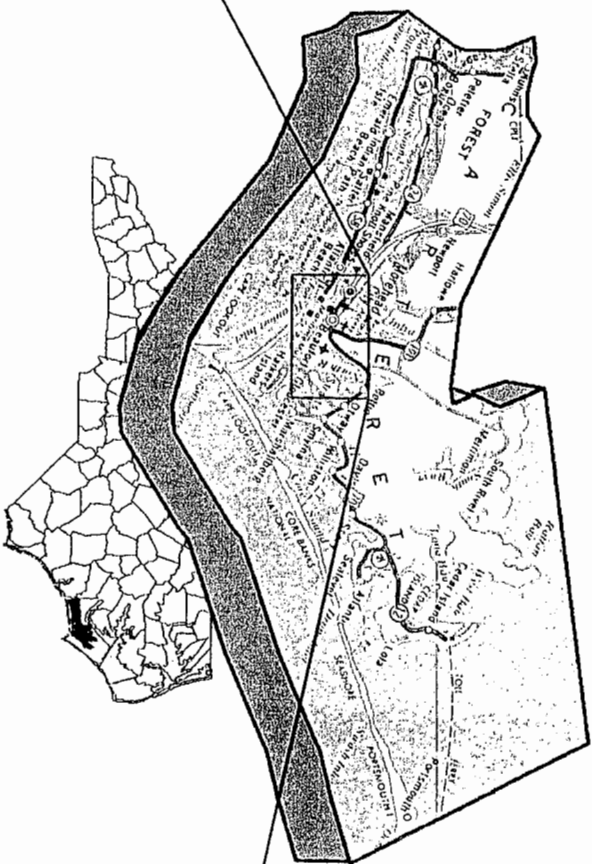
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Generally, the decision whether to issue this Department of the Army (DA) permit will not be made until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The NCDWQ considers whether or not the proposed activity will comply with Sections 301, 302, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act. The application and this public notice for the Department of the Army (DA) permit serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification.

Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the offices of the Wetlands/401 Unit, North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 2321 Crabtree Blvd, Suite 250, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604. Copies of such materials will be furnished to any person requesting copies upon payment of reproduction costs.

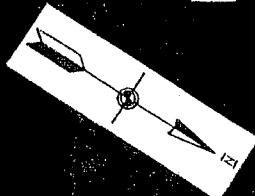
All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for Clean Water Act certification should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality, (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650, Attention: Mr. John Hennessy.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received in this office, Attention: Mr. Dave Timpy, until 4:00 p.m., January 3, 2005.





BEGIN PROJECT R - 3307



# ALT 1E & 2E

N. C. MARITIME  
MUSEUM PROPERTY

US 70

Site A

ALTERNATIVE 2E

Site B

Site C

Site D

Site E

Site F

Site G

BEAUFORT - MOREHEAD  
CITY AIRPORT

CARTERET COUNTY  
HOME

PIVER'S ISLAND RD. (SR 1208)

GALLANT'S CHANNEL

MOORE ST

ORANGE ST

TURNER STREET

TOWN OF BEAUFORT  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

QUEEN STREET

POLLOCK STREET

LIVE OAK STREET

PIKE STREET

CEDAR STREET

HARBOR OF  
REFUGE

WEST BEAUFORT ROAD  
(SR 1170)

Site I

Site J

Site K

Site L

Site M

## LEGEND

--- HISTORIC SITE / DISTRICT

— PROPOSED ALIGNMENT

— BRIDGE

— WETLAND



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

US 70 FROM FOUR LANES AT RADIO ISLAND TO  
NORTH OF BEAUFORT NEAR OLGA ROAD (SR 1429)  
BEAUFORT, CARTERET COUNTY  
TIP NO. R - 3307

## PROJECT ALTERNATIVES 1E & 2E

SCALE: 0 100 200 400 600 800 FEET

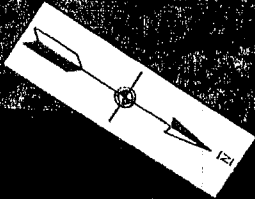
GRAPHIC BY: CHARLES STURDIVANT SHEET NO. 1 OF 2 FIGURE 2B

MATCH LINE



ALT 1E & 2E

END PROJECT R-3307



CARTERET COUNTY HOME

NC 101

PC WETLAND

PC WETLAND

PC WETLAND

PC WETLAND

PEARL DRIVE (SR 1456)

Site O

ALTERNATIVE 2E  
ALTERNATIVE 1E

SHELL LANDING ROAD (SR 1301)

OLGA ROAD (SR 1429)

SCHOOL EXPANSION SITE

CARTERET COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

WETLAND

Site N

WELLS DR.

US 70

PINNERS POINT ROAD (SR 1303)

MATCH LINE

LEGEND

HISTORIC SITE / DISTRICT

PROPOSED ALIGNMENT

BRIDGE

WETLAND



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TIP NO. R-3307

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES 1E & 2E

SCALE : 0 100 200 METERS  
0 200 400 600 FEET

GRAPHIC BY : CHARLES STURDIVANT SHEET NO. : 2 OF 2 FIGURE 2B

ALT 1A & 2A

END PROJECT R - 3307

MATCH LINE

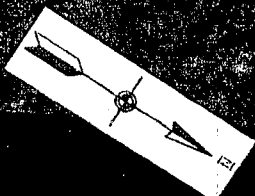
LEGEND

----- HISTORIC SITE / DISTRICT

----- PROPOSED ALIGNMENT

----- BRIDGE

----- WETLAND



Site O

SHELL LANDING ROAD (SR 1301)

OLGA ROAD (SR 1429)

CARTERET COUNTY HOME

NC 101

PC WETLAND

PC WETLAND

ALTERNATIVE 2A

PC WETLAND

PC WETLAND

SCHOOL EXPANSION SITE

CARTERET COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

WETLAND

Site N

WELLONS DR

US 70

PINNERS POINT ROAD (SR 1303)

PEARL DRIVE (SR 1456)



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

US 70 FROM FOUR LANES AT RADIO ISLAND TO  
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BEAUFORT, CARTERET COUNTY

TIP NO. R - 3307

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES 1A & 2A

SCALE : 0 100 200 METERS  
0 200 400 600 FEET

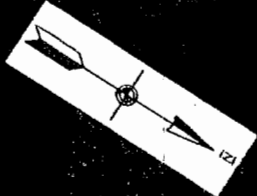
GRAPHIC BY : CHARLES STURDIVANT SHEET NO. : 2 OF 2 FIGURE 2A



BEGIN PROJECT R - 3307

ALT 1A & 2A

N. C. MARITIME  
MUSEUM PROPERTY



Site A

Site E

Site F

BEAUFORT - MOREHEAD  
CITY AIRPORT

Site G

Site D

CARTERET COUNTY  
HOME

Site C

HARBOR OF  
REFUGE

ALTERNATIVE 2A

PIVER'S ISLAND RD. (SR 1208)

ALTERNATIVE 1A

Site M

GALLANT'S CHANNEL

Site I

Site J

Site L

Site K

MOORE ST.

ORANGE ST.

TURNER STREET

TOWN OF BEAUFORT  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

QUEEN STREET

POLLOCK STREET

LIVE OAK STREET

PINE STREET

CEDAR STREET

LEGEND

----- HISTORIC SITE / DISTRICT

----- PROPOSED ALIGNMENT

----- BRIDGE

----- WETLAND



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

US 70 FROM FOUR LANES AT RADIO ISLAND TO  
NORTH OF BEAUFORT NEAR OLGA ROAD (SR 1429)  
BEAUFORT, CARTERET COUNTY  
TIP NO. R - 3307

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES 1A & 2A

SCALE: 0 200 400 600 800 FEET  
200 METERS

GRAPHIC BY: CHARLES STURDIVANT SHEET NO. 1 OF 2 FIGURE 2A

MATCH LINE



ALTERNATIVE 2D

END PROJECT R - 3307

CARTERET COUNTY HOME

NC 101

PC WETLAND

SCHOOL EXPANSION SITE

CARTERET COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

WETLAND

Site N

PC WETLAND

ALTERNATIVE 2D

PC WETLAND

PC WETLAND

WELLONS DR.

US 70

PINNERS POINT ROAD (SR 1303)

PEARL DRIVE (SR 1456)

Site O

SHELL LANDING ROAD (SR 1301)

OLGA ROAD (SR 1429)

MATCH LINE

LEGEND

HISTORIC SITE / DISTRICT

PROPOSED ALIGNMENT

BRIDGE

WETLAND



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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PROJECT ALTERNATIVES 2D

SCALE: 0 100 200 METERS  
0 200 400 600 FEET

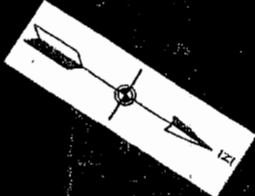
GRAPHIC BY: CHARLES STURDIVANT SHEET NO. 2 OF 2 FIGURE 2C



BEGIN PROJECT R - 3307

ALTERNATIVE 2D

N. C. MARITIME  
MUSEUM PROPERTY



Site A

Site G

Site D

Site C

PIVER'S ISLAND RD. (SR 1208)

GALLANT'S CHANNEL

MOORE ST.

ORANGE ST.

TURNER STREET

TOWN OF BEAUFORT  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

QUEEN STREET

POLLOCK STREET

LIVE OAK STREET

PINE STREET

CEDAR STREET

HARBOR OF  
REFUGE

WEST BEAUFORT ROAD  
(SR 1170)

BEAUFORT - MOREHEAD  
CITY AIRPORT

CARTERET COUNTY  
HOME

Site M

Site L

Site J

Site I

Site F

Site E

MATCH LINE

LEGEND

----- HISTORIC SITE / DISTRICT

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----- WETLAND



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PROJECT ALTERNATIVES 2D

SCALE: 0 100 200 METERS  
0 200 400 600 FEET

GRAPHIC BY: CHARLES STURDIVANT SHEET NO. : 1 OF 2 FIGURE 2C